

2 organizing communications within a computer network communication channel into a
3 number of time slots, each time slot being designated for transmissions from one of a number of
4 network components; and
5 including a quiet time slot within the communication channel for use by new network
6 components not previously associated with the computer network seeking access to the
7 communication channel.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. The informalities in the drawings are noted and corrected drawings will be filed upon an indication of allowability of the application.

As indicated above, the claims have been amended to further clarify that connection requests or other transmissions from components which seek access to a communication channel are made by devices that were not current components or were not currently associated with the computer network in which the communication channel exists. Support for such amendments may be found, for example, beginning at pg. 18, l. 24, wherein a description of how connection requests are used by a new client to join a computer network are described. Thus, no new matter is introduced by these amendments.

The claims are patentable over the cited references because Mosebrook et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,905,442 fails to teach or suggest a scheme wherein devices which are not current components of a network may become components of such a network through the use of connection requests and the like. Mosebrook describes a scheme wherein various electrical devices such as those used for controlling electric lights are communicatively coupled to a central controller through an RF communication link. However, it is apparent from Mosebrook's description at col. 18, ll. 8-26 that adding new components to such a network can only be done manually by user using an "install mode" at the controller. Mosebrook provides no means for



allowing devices which are not current components of a network to become such components by listening to communications occurring within the network and then transmitting connection requests or similar requests to the central controller as recited in the present claims.

Furthermore, this deficiency is not cured when one considers the teachings of Barrett et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,699,532. Barrett describes a multi-path channel interfaces for computer input-output systems, that fails to discuss transmission of connection requests for components which were not current parts of such computer systems. Indeed, it is noted that original claim 27 included the limitation of the use of a quiet time slot for use by "new network components" but the rejections set forth in the office action, and in particular at paragraph 10 thereof, completely fail to deal with this feature of the present invention. Therefore, because the present claims recite features not found in either of the cited references, the present claims are neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious by these references whether considered alone or in combination.

For all the foregoing reasons, the present claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance. If there are any deficiencies of fees associated with this communication, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

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Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Tarek N. Fahmi
Reg. No.: 41,402

12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8598